

THE HUNT FOR THE U.S.S. ALLIGATOR

The Civil War's First Submarine?

In 1861, the U.S. Navy built its first submarine, *USS Alligator*. It was an unusual and daring design, conceived by the French inventor, Brutus de Villeroi. Built in Philadelphia, the *Alligator* was intended to surreptitiously place explosives for destroying Confederate ships and harbor obstructions. In April 1863, while being towed south to take part in the attack on Charleston harbor, the *Alligator* was lost in a storm off Cape Hatteras. She has never been found.



President Abraham Lincoln



Samuel Eakins - Commander, *USS Alligator*

C. H. W. R.

Quincy, Mass. L.
Philadelphia

Bureau of Naval Ordnance
13 June 1862

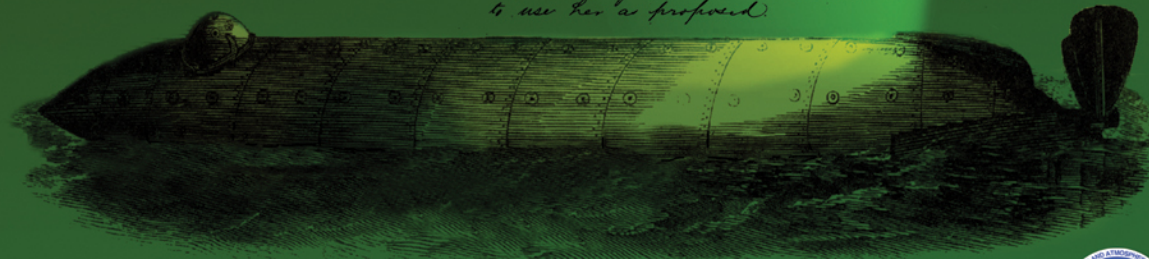
The Submarine Propeller being reported ready for service please turn her over to the Commandant of the Navy Yard, to whom I have written directing that she be sent to Fortress Monroe by the first conveyance.

The crew of the vessel will be borne on the rolls of the Paymaster of the Yard, and hereafter be paid by him.

Respectfully,
J. G. Smith

Rd

The Secretary of the Navy requests that you will make such arrangements with the Master of the boat as will enable him to use her as proposed.



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